"The South 40"
by JAMES A. SMITH
EXTENSION AGENT

What to do with drought stricken corn is one of the most frequently asked questions. Some corn will probably not form an ear regardless of the amount of rain that we may get. Irregardless, most corn that I've looked at has too much moisture to be harvested as silage. We need to watch it carefully and choose the best time for harvesting.

* * *

The rainfall pattern is erractic over the county. Some parts have nearly normal crops, whereas other parts continue to be extremely dry. There is a need on many farms to topdress fescue pastures, but naturally there is resistance to do this as logn as it's dry. Most farmers recall how it's possible to have hard rains and lose much of the fertilizer that's been applied. I believe it would be well to wait for a good rain before applying fertilizer.

* * *

Three summer feeder cattle sales have been held at Harrisonburg, Culpeper and Marshall. Steers averaged $6.00 and heifers $8.00 above a year earlier, but less than the 1976 spring sales.

The September 1 corn and soybean crop reports will strongly influence fall feeder prices.

* * *

The Amherst Livestock Market will offer two fall sales; a feeder sale on October 8 and a yearling sale on October 22. Sale time is 7 p.m.

* * *

Don't construct all feeding bunks the same height. Throat heights for calves should be 16" - 18", for feeders and mature cows 22". Use 30" height only if hogs will run with cattle.

* * *

Most water heater thermostats are factory set at 150°. You can reduce the setting to 140°, cut operating costs and, in most cases, still provide plenty of hot water.

If you are using air conditioning, check the filters. Dirty filters require more energy to operate.

* * *

Good handling facilities for working cattle are invaluable when it comes to working cattle safely and efficiently. The chute width is often too wide. For best results use 18" for cattle up to 600 pounds, 22" for 600-1200 pound weights and 26" width for animals over 1200 pounds.

* * *

It's good to see the Highway spraying for Johnsongrass control. There are a lot of farmers needing to do the same thing. One Johnsongrass rhizome left untreated and undisturbed can spread more than 200 feet during one season.

A new chemical, Roundup, is available that does an excellent job if applied at the proper time. The proper time is when the plant is in the boot stage.

Fall treatment is possible in the fall after silage harvest but before small grain seeding.

Follow these rules: 1. Don't fallow folling application for at least 7 days; 2. Use proper spray equipment - - don't use galvanized steel or unlined steel containers or spray tanks; 3. Use enough water for good coverage - - at least 20 gallons per acre; 4. Should have at least 6 hours time following spraying before a rain.

* * *

It's time to begin thinking about the use of the zip seeder for renovating pastures. Some is being done this week.

* * *

PRECIPITATION:

Last Week	1.68
This Month	1.68
This Year	25.68

Seeding demonstration is given on the Marvin Gibson farm.

Demonstration how to seine a pond is given on the Jimmy Tweedy farm.

Conservation Tour Draws Crowd

About 130 farmers, bankers and professional agriculturalists were on hand Wednesday for the annual Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District tour. Several farms were visited as the tour proceeded from Concord to Red House.

On the Marvin Gibson farm the group observed excellent cropping systems using contour strip cropping. Several new pieces of farm equipment were demonstrated including a mechanical rock picker and a John Deere rotary pasture seeder. Extension Agents, Jim Smith and Allen Hunter, conducted the seeding demonstration. The Gibson farm has been operated under a conservation plan provided by the District for more than 20 years.

At the Jimmy Tweedy farm David Whitehurst, Fishery Biologist, Virginia Commission of Game & Inland Fisheries, and his techneians demonstrated how to seine a pond. The beautiful Tweedy pond was constructed in 1961 and stocked with bass and bluegill. Quality fishing had become very poor. Whitehurst pointed to the large numbers of small bluegill and absence of bass caught in the seine. Overpopulation of bluegill is typical in most ponds. He recommended removal of bluebill by fishing, periodical seining, etc. but leaving the bass. Bass are predators to bluegill he said.

Bob McClenny, District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, showed the group the benefits derived form various conservation practices including no till. He pointed out that Tweedy's no till crop production provided excellent erosion control. Tweedy became a cooperator with the

Dam #1 in the Little Falling River Watershed project (now Foster Reynold's Clearview Lake) was built for flood control.

Robert E. Lee Conservation District in 1947 while a sophomore in high school.

Evergreen

The council on ministeries will meet on Tues., Aug. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Evergreen United Methodist Church.

The Young Adult Class of Evergreen United Methodist Church will have a spaghetti supper on Saturday, Aug. 14 at 6 p.m.

The officers and teachers Bible Study of Evergreen Baptist Church will meet in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Harvey, Fri., Aug. 13, 7 p.m.

The Median Adult Men's Bible Class and their families of Evergreen Baptist Church will have a "cook-out" Sat., Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas Paulette.

Joette Paulette is a patient in Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida where she is having eye surgery.

Rachel Evans is a patient in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Julie Rahem and Lisa Wright are spending this week in Norfolk visiting Mrs. Jane Wright and children.

Mrs. J. K. Hamilton is recovering at home from a foot injury.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Mobley and sons, Bobby, Larry and Phil and Miss Sherry Terry spent a few days recently at Nags Head, N.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dixon and Dwight and Mrs. Walter Shelton visited Mr. Ed Shelton in a Richmond Hospital, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hodge spent several days in Columbus, Ohio, with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Keith. Their granddaughter, Kathy, returned with them for a week's visit here.

Mrs. Eugenia Evans was given a "Surprise" dinner on the lawn at her home Sunday by her children. There were 52 present, guests included children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Florence Bartlett has returned home after a week visiting friends in and near Richmond.

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WINS STATE TITLES

Gail Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Dallas Moore, captured the Hoop and Novice Flag Baton Twirling Championships in state competition in Danville on July 25 in her respective age division. Other winnings were; 2nd-Solo; 2nd-Parade Majorette; 2nd - 2-Baton; and 2nd - Novice Best Appearing.

Active in competitive baton twirling for the past five years, Gail has won numerous awards including 273 trophies and 109 medals. Major titles won include: First Runner-Up Virginia's Most Beautiful Majorette, July 1976; Novice Miss Majorette of Virginia, June 1976; Miss North South Queen, Manassas, 1976; Alexandria Christmas Queen, December 1975; and Lynchburg Fancy Strut Champion, October 1975.

Gail is currently a student-teacher of private baton lessons under the instruction of Joyce L. Gray, National Baton Twirling Association (NBTA) Judge, Annandale, Virginia.

Gail's other interests include Piano (9 years), varsity cheerleader (3 years), currently serving as Captain, President of the Varsity Club, Secretary, Senior Class, and member of the National Honor Society.

ANNOUNCE BIRTH

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce W. Hackett announce the birth of their son, Brent Wayne, born August 7, 1976 at Virginia Baptist Hospital.

They are also the parents of another child, Angela Lynn, age 5.

The maternal grandparents are Mrs. T. D. Harris and the late Mr. Harris. The paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Hampton Hackett, Jr. of Dillwyn, Va. Great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bryant and Mrs. Vera Hackett of Wingina.

CHILDERS REUNION

The descendants of the late James E. and John D. Childers will hold their annual reunion at Oakville School on Sunday, August 22.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend and bring a picnic lunch and beverage. Lunch will begin at 1:00.

Longwood Alumni To Have Coke Party

The Appomattox Chapter of the Longwood College Alumni Association will have a coke party to honor area Longwood College students on Friday, August 13 at 10 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Carolyn Coleman.

All members are urged to attend.

Mrs. Lou Rogers,
Publicity Chairman

CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS

Express Views At Seminar

BLACKSBURG -- Farm wives throught the nation can heave a giant sigh of relief if approximately 120 young farm couples interviewed are representative of their group.

In a not-too-seriously oriented poll, the young farm couples voted three to one against having the wife get up early one day a week to milk or do other farm chores while the husbands sleep in.

The poll was taken at the 1976 National Institute on Cooperative Education, the annual seminar of the American Institute of Cooperation, held here at Virginia Tech, July 26-29.

While some 55 husbands lost out in the question of the wife getting up early once a week, they did come out favorably when the couples voted on the question of husbands cooking one meal a week so the wife can go out. In addition, the institution of marriage got another boost when the husbands and wives voted 95 per cent in opposition to separate vacations.

On other issues, the young farm couples voted:

**A Husband should rise first each morning on the farm -- 50 per cent yes, 50 per cent no.

**The wife's place is with her husband at milking time -- 35 per cent yes, 65 per cent no.

**The husband and wife should vote the same candidate for President -- 45 per cent yes, 55 per cent no.

** Husbands should make all the big decisions -- 35 per cent yes, 65 per cent no.

Flower Show Judges To Sponser Symposium VIII

The Virginia Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges will sponsor Symposium VIII. It will be held Sept. 27-29, 1976 at Mt. Vernon Motel, Charlottesville. Co-sponsors of the Symposium is The Cooperative Extension Service Extension Division, VPI & SU and the Dept. of Horticulture in cooperation with The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The public is invited to attend. Only members of the National Council of State Garden Clubs may take the course for credit. Credentials must be checked with Mrs. Thomas J. Henley, State Flower School Chairman, Rt. 3, Box 363, Charlottesville, 22901.

The program consists of the study of Ferns, Geraniums and Celosia. Also, Artistic Design covering "Creative Space and Form", "Plant Terminology" and "Azaleas in Virginia".

Mrs. James Jackson of Wellston, Ohio, the author of the program booklet, "Green Grows Your Program" and "Hortulana", will teach Horticulture. She is also a skilled Floral Designer. Mrs. Jackson is State Horticulture Chairman and Improved Cultivars Chairman for Central Atlantic Region.

Mrs. Harry Gwinner of Atlanta, Ga. will teach "Creative Space and Form". She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and holds a certificate to teach both Ikene and She-Fu-Ryu and is also a member of Ikebana International.

Professor Albert S. Beecher is Director of The Flower Show School. He is Professor of Horticulture, Extension Specialist in Ornamental Horticulture and Plant Specialist at VPI & SU. Mr. Beecher is a member of numerous Plant Societies & is Vice-President of the American Boxwood Society. He will teach Plant Terminology.

"Azaleas in Virginia" will be taught by Mr. Robert O. Mathews of Norfolk. Mr. Mathews has been Superintendent of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens for over 20 years. He is a graduate of National Landscape Institute and received diplomas in fields relating to Parks and Recreation from Old Dominion University. He has spent many years in research and growing azaleas.

Mrs. Omer O. Utt, Lynchburg, is president of The Virginia Council of National Accredited Flower Show Judges and will open the school. Mrs. O. O. van Deusen, president Va. Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and Professor Albert S. Beecher, will welcome the assembly. Others presiding are, Mrs. Frank J. Lukanich, Norfolk, Chairman of the Symposium; Mrs. O. Robert Plumb, Milton, N.C., Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Edwin B. Forrest, Norfolk, Registrar; Mrs. Ben May, Lynchburg, Book Chairman and Mrs. Clarence L. Fleshman, Lynchburg, Publicity Chairman.

Some members of the Appomattox Garden Club will be attending.

Cutting Energy Costs

BLACKSBURG-- Refrigerators may not consume as much energy as water heaters or heating systems, but there are several ways to reduce energy consumption of the refrigerator, a Virgina Tech home economist noted.

Janice E. Woodward, Extension home management specialist, reported findings based on a 12-month study of two five-member Blacksburg families which found that between nine and ten per cent of the electricity used in the homes studied was specifically for refrigeration of food.

The findings are slightly higher than the six per cent estimate by scientists at Stanford Research Institute in California, Woodward said, but that estimate is based on other forms of energy used in homes in addition to electricity.

Based on a rate of 2.7 cents per kilowatt hour (kwh), costof electricity for refrigeration averaged $4 in one home and just under $5 in the other.Each family had five members. Neither home had electric heat.

In one home was a 13-year old, 13-cubic-foot refrigerator with partial automatic defrosting which averaged about 149 kwh monthly. while the other home's newer 10-cubic-foot, frost-free refrigerator-freezer averaged 181 kwh monthly. Most emergy was consumed during the summer months, the specialist reported.

Woodward said that more information on patterns of energy consumption in homes is needed and that researchers in Tech's College of Home Economics are continuing the study using four comparable sized families.

She said that nationally the Midwest Research Institutein in Kansas City has begun similar study.

The Tech Study supported speculations that the refrigerator is a low energy user compared to other home systems, and it also confirmed that there are several ways to reduce energy comsumption of the refrigerator. These include:

--Open your refrigerator only when necessary.

--Take out and replace a number of items at one time since more heat enters during several short openings than during a longer opening.

--Clean condenser coils on the back or at the bottom with a vacuum cleaner periodically to increase operating efficiency.

--Replace worn door gaskets. Moisture condensation around the door opening may indicate a leaky gasket.

--Defrost your manuel refrigerator often to reduce operating costs. If frost becomes more than one-fourth inch thick, it acts as an insulator, making the refrigerator work harder.

Place refrigerator in a cool place for greatest efficiency. Do not place near a range or in direct sunlight.

For more information about how you can save on your electric bill, ask your local county or city Extension office for Publication 512, "How to Save on Your Electric Bill--And Conserve Energy." Or write the Distribution Offic er, Extension Division, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. 24061

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